Understanding the economic impact of cultural heritage

Better investments through improved evidence collection

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Developing a new national strategy for cultural heritage in Romania within a new legal framework (a new toolbox)
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Current situation

- outdated legal system, dating from the 2000s, but based on older concepts and approaches
- fragmentary legal covering of cultural heritage, by laws on immovable (i.e. “historic monuments”, in the language of the law), archaeological, technical and industrial, movable and intangible heritage
- positive development of the Cultural Heritage Code in 2014-2016 – the Theses
- opportunity to continue and complete the Code
- projects under way – systematization of legal instruments, evidence-based policies
Romanian legal framework – an outline

- **movable** (Law 182 / 2000)
  - goods which represent a testimony and an expression of values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions, in continuous evolution

- **immovable** (Law 422 / 2001)
  - monument: building or part of a building, with its utilities, artistic components, interior or exterior furnishing, as well as commemorative, funerary or public artistic works, together with their terrain, which are significant cultural-historic evidence, architectural, archaeological, historical, artistic, ethnographical, religious, social, scientific or technical
  - ensemble: coherent group of buildings
  - site: area comprising human creations in natural environment
legal framework – an outline

- **intangible** (Law 26 / 2008)
  - all practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – together with the associated instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces – which communities, groups or individuals recognize as integral part of their cultural heritage
  - other categories: traditional cultural expressions, living human treasures, distinctive traditional mark

- **archaeological** (Government Ordinance GO 43 / 2000)
  - archaeological sites inscribed in the National Archaeological Repertoire and those inscribed in the List of Historic Monuments
  - movable goods
legal framework – an outline

- **industrial** (Law 6 / 2008)
  - all goods, movable or immovable and ensembles of such goods, representing significant testimonies of technical and production activities which triggered socio-economic evolutions of human society, from the earliest pre-industrial manifestations until present.
  - it may comprise buildings, industrial or civil (such as dwellings or religious buildings), mines, quarries and others alike, infrastructure, industrial cultural landscapes, archives

- **World Heritage** (Decree 187 / 1990; GO 47 / 2000)
  - special protection and management measures
  - the protection of these properties – of national interest

- **laws for adoption of international conventions**
  - architecture / archaeology / landscape
legal framework – an outline

- issues
  - top-down, expert-led
  - material-based
  - ignores owners and communities as active agents for the protection
  - missing or loose categories: cultural landscape, vernacular, modern, 20th Century, urban
  - lacks correspondence to real situation on the ground
A new approach – the Heritage Code

• aim: achieve a unitary, coherent and up-to-date legal framework

• principles (approved by Government in 2016)
  I. the principle of non-renewable resources and sustainable development
  II. the principle of public interest and the responsibilities of the State
  III. the principle of diversity and complementarity of cultural identities, without discrimination
  IV. the principle of fair citizens’ responsibilities in the protection of cultural heritage
  V. the principle of unity between cultural heritage and its context
  VI. the principle of authenticity
  VII. the principle of specialization
  VIII. the principle of education
  IX. the principle of inclusion and accessibility
  X. the principle of identity and priority of international treaties
Ensuing projects

Historic monuments* – strategic planning and improved public policies

- **aim**
  - improvement of administrative, legislative and decision-making processes within central administration and its decentralized branches in the field of cultural heritage

- **objectives**
  - redesign legal framework (the Heritage Code – to be drafted and approved by 2021)
  - create the strategic and operational framework for the generation of evidence-based policies

* term used to comply to current law
Ensuing projects

- **outcomes**
  - improved legal framework – unified, coherent, up-to-date

- **outputs**
  - Heritage Code
  - National Strategy for Historic Monuments*
  - inventory of immovable cultural heritage (to be connected later to future similar inventories of movable and intangible heritage)
  - web-based heritage management platform

* term used to comply to current law
Ensuing projects

- **tools**
  - web-based, GIS-based, open-source, collaborative platform for the management of cultural heritage (immovable, to expand later to other categories)
  - pilot on-site inventory

- **expected results**
  - functions performed by the platform: inventory, support for administrative processes (approval of projects), archaeological management – of research, of heritage, of professionals; documentation; support for private management systems
  - connectivity: it will connect all levels of cultural heritage public administration, from ministry – with its advisory bodies, the commissions – to the central technical body, INP, and to the county offices for culture; the next level of connectivity is going to be local administrations – municipalities, offices for cadaster, environment agencies, emergency intervention
Further needs

- **increase knowledge of cultural heritage and its impacts**
  - establish national data gathering standards and tools
  - use collaborative instruments – the platform described above – to gather missing data
  - importance of ESPON project

- **funding instruments**
  - include specific objectives of data gathering in all national funding schemes
  - create dedicated funding lines for research on cultural heritage impacts
  - influence future EU funding so as to better provide for research on national and regional levels, on cultural heritage and its impacts
European Heritage: Shared experience and regional specificities

Cultural heritage conference within the Romanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

Theme: Quality in Heritage Practices

11-13 April 2019, Sighișoara
Thank you

Ştefan Bâlici, National Institute of Heritage, Romania

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